

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Introduction:

Claims 2-6, 9-12, 14, 16-22, and 37-39 have been amended. Claims 8, 26-36, and 40-42 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 43-59 have been newly added. Claims 2-7, 9-25, 37-39, and 43-59 are now pending in the application. (Claim 1 was cancelled in an earlier filed paper.) Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Objections To The Specification, Drawings, And Claims:

Objections have been made to the specification because of alleged errors in the subheading on page 2 and paragraphs 0007, 0012, 0016, 0018, 0026, 0030, 0039, 0044, 0045, 0046, 0056, 0064, 0066, 0068, 0069, 0070, 0072, 0076, 0079, 0080, and 0081. In response, Applicant amended paragraphs 0055, 0057, 0064, 0066, 0068, 0070, 0072, 0076, and 0079 and corrected the typographical errors identified by the Examiner in those paragraphs.

Applicant has carefully considered the other objections to the specification but does not believe that further changes to the specification are necessary. More specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that the alleged errors in the other paragraphs are not errors, and there is no basis in the patent statutes or rules for objections to those paragraphs. For example, the MPEP refers to the subheading on page 2 of the specification using the word "Brief." See MPEP § 608.01(d). The terminology "17a-17c" is as grammatically correct as "17a, 17b, 17c." In addition, Applicants believe that it is not necessary or desirable to repeat the phrase "as shown in Figure" in nearly every sentence in the specification. With respect to the formulas on page 17 and paragraphs 0044, 0045, and 0046, Applicant does not understand the objection. The formulas appear to be sufficiently defined, and paragraphs 0044, 0045, and 0046 are complete. It is not grammatically necessary to add a comma or colon to paragraph 0039. Applicant believes the term "resonate" is correctly used in paragraph 0069.

In short, Applicant requests that these objections to the specification be withdrawn. Should these objections not be withdrawn, Applicant respectfully requests that the relevant patent statutes or rules or MPEP be cited for the objections.

Objections have also been made to Figures 3, 5, 9, 13, and 15. Applicant has carefully reviewed these objections and the description of each drawing as requested. As discussed below,

Applicant has made changes to Figures 3 and 13. In addition, the amendments to paragraph 0055 address the objections to Figure 9, and the amendments to paragraph 0072 address the objections to Figure 15. No change has been made, however, to Figure 5 because it appears to be consistent with the written description, which states that Figure 5 illustrates an example in which eight integrated circuits 14(1) through 14(8), each having a coupler 18(1) through 18(8), are coupled to transmission line 22. (See paragraph 0030.) Therefore, Applicants have either corrected the drawing error discovered by the Examiner or, in the case of Figure 5, pointed out that there is not an error.

Claims 36 and 39 have been objected to. Applicant has carefully considered the objections to the claims. Applicant, however, believes that the suggested changes to the claims either are not necessary or do not convey the intended scope of the claims. Moreover, Applicant asserts that claims 36 and 39 meet the requirements of 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, and indeed, neither claim 36 nor claim 39 was rejected as indefinite. Applicant is not aware of any other basis in the patent statutes or rules or the MPEP for such objections. Applicant therefore requests that the objections to the claims be withdrawn. Should these objections not be withdrawn, Applicant respectfully requests that a basis in the patent statutes or rules or MPEP be cited for the objections.

Amendments To The Drawings:

Applicant has enclosed changes to the Figures 3, 13, and 14. The changes to Figures 3 and 13 address objections made to the drawings. The changes to Figure 14 make that Figure consistent with amendments made to paragraphs 0064, 0066, and 0068.

Objection To New Matter:

In the Amendment filed December 20, 2002, Applicant proposed amending Figure 7 to correct a typographical error in which the frequency label in Figure 7 would be changed from MHZ to GHZ. The Examiner declined to approve that change on the grounds that the proposed change would introduce new matter into the specification. Applicant asserts, however, that the proposed change to Figure 7 does not introduce new matter but is fully supported by the specification. Indeed, the written specification does not anywhere refer to megahertz or MHZ but only to GHZ or giga-bit rates. (See paragraphs 0042, 0047, and 0048.) Thus, GHZ—not

MHZ—is consistently discussed throughout the specification. Therefore, the written specification readily supports a GHZ label in Figure 7. Applicant asks the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the proposed change to Figure 7 filed on December 20, 2002 and approve the change.

Rejection Of Claims:

Claims 2-25 were rejected as indefinite under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Applicant amended the claims to address the ambiguities noted by the Examiner and requests that the rejection now be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5, 10-15, 18-20, 23-25, and 36 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0057137 A1 to Marketkar et al. ("Marketkar"). In addition claims 7 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 as obvious in view of Marketkar and US Patent No. 6,449,308 to Knight, Jr. et al. ("Knight"). Applicant traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 2 has been amended to include the "shielding material" of dependent claim 8. Claim 8 was rejected only as indefinite but not in view of any references of record. Applicant assumes that this means claim 8 is allowable over the references of record, particularly in light of the Examiner's finding that various shielding features render claims 37 and 38 allowable. Therefore, as independent claim 2 now includes the shielding requirement of claim 8, claim 2 should now be allowable.

Claims 3-5, 7, 9-25, 43, and 44 depend from claim 2 and should therefore also be allowable.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the various "shielding means" in claims 37 and 38 distinguish those claims over the references of record. Applicant amended both claims 37 and 38 to include the base claim 36 less the loose coupling requirement, which is now in new dependent claims 45 and 46. This "shielding means" renders claims 37 and 38 patentable over the references of record.

Dependent claims 39 and 45-47 depend from one of claims 37 or 38 and are therefore also allowable.

Claim 6 has been amended to be in independent form and include all of the requirements of claim 2 as originally submitted. Claim 6 was rejected only as indefinite but not in view of

references of record. Applicant assumes that this means claim 6 is allowable over the references of record. Moreover, the requirement in claim 6 that an electromagnetic coupler be smaller than the integrated circuit is not taught or suggested by the cited references of record. Therefore, claim 6 is allowable.

New independent claim 48 includes "shielding material," which as discussed above, should render claim 48 and its dependent claims (claims 49-55) patentable over the references of record.

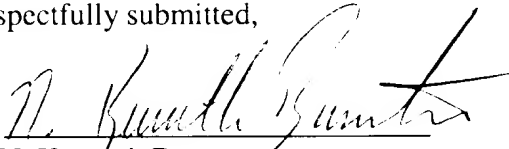
Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicant's attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 536-6763.

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